

Philippians (5 of 8)
Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the sermon slides and small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, September 8th, 2024



Series Focus: In his final days on earth, the Apostle Paul wrote a heartfelt letter to the church in Philippi from a prison cell in Rome. What does it look like to be faithful to Jesus in a world of competing allegiances? Is it possible for the church to remain calm, be at peace, and live with joy in a society that is seriously lacking it? And how do we live as “citizens of heaven” in a world seemingly going to hell? In this series, we will be encouraged to view all of life through the lens of the cross and to live out our faith together in humility, service, and love—all the while anticipating the Lord’s return.

Sermon Title: Our Faith in Action

Scripture Reading: Philippians 2:19-30; James 2:14-24; 1 John 2:6

Sermon Focus: After Paul uses the Christ hymn to call the Philippians to follow the example of our crucified Lord, he then commends two Christians they know: Timothy and Epaphroditus. He uses them as examples of what it looks like when we have the mindset of Christ and put our faith into action. In the fifth message of our series, Pastor David invites us to celebrate the humble servants in a celebrity-obsessed culture.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Begin by reading Philippians 2:19-30 on your own in silence, then have someone in your group read it aloud. Paul commends two brothers the Philippians know. They are real examples of Christ, as he is described in Philippians 2:6-11. As you read, what jumps out at you about this passage? What is the Spirit bringing to your attention and saying to you?
2. Paul said that Timothy was a reliable servant, unlike “all the others” (2:21). While we’re not sure who he is talking about, we can read about one such person in 2 Timothy 4:9-10. He says that a man named Demas “deserted him” because “he loved this world” more than Christ and staying committed to the mission. Have you ever had someone leave you in the lurch or abandon you when you needed them? How did you feel? Also, what kinds of things might “he loved this world” mean? What reasons do you see people quitting today to follow the flesh?
3. Consider the contrast between Paul’s call to humble service and our celebrity-obsessed, power-hungry culture today. Why do you think our culture elevates and celebrates rich, powerful (and often immoral) people over real servants? Since Christ calls us to be humble servants, what are some ways that the church can resist this toxic culture to prove to the world that we follow Jesus?
4. Inherent within the New Testament idea of “belief” is action. Real belief requires action. Read James 2:14-24 and 1 John 2:6. How is God inviting you to put your faith into action at home, on the job, in the church, and in your civic/public life? In what ways can you embody humble service like Timothy and Epaphroditus?
5. Paul wasn’t just thanking his brothers for their service. He wanted the Philippians to honor the humble servants, instead of those that Romans honored. Who are living, breathing examples of Christ (humble servants) for you? Who makes Jesus and the gospel attractive to the world? Is there someone that you need to build up and encourage by sharing how they have inspired you in your faith?
6. Close your time together in prayer. Pray for our congregation to live lives of humble service and to celebrate those that God elevates. Pray that this Kingdom value of humble service will be reflected in our civic witness and political life. How else is the Spirit inviting you to pray for each other and our church?